IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 10 in accordance with the following:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A security information mediation apparatus connected between a first terminal at an information contributor and a second terminal at an information recipient, the security information mediation apparatus comprising:

a first receiving unit which receives security information from the first terminal, the security information comprising information regarding a design error or bug in a computer program;

a first registering unit which registers the security information in a first database;

a first transfer unit which receives the security information from the first registering unit and transfers the security information registered by the first registering unit to the second terminal for the information recipient to judge usefulness of the security information;

a second receiving unit which receives at least reply information including the usefulness of the security information corresponding to the security information from the second terminal;

a second registering unit which registers at least the reply information in a second database; and

a second transfer unit which receives at least the reply information from the second registering unit and transfers the reply information to the first terminal, wherein

when the information recipient finds that the security information has usefulness, the second receiving unit receives payment information on an information presentation fee to be paid to the information contributor from the second terminal, the second registering unit registers the payment information together with the reply information, and the second transfer unit transfers the payment information together with the reply information to the first terminal.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first registering unit refers to the registered security information in the first database, and registers the security information from the first terminal in

the first database only if the security information from the first terminal is new, and said first transfer unit transfers the security information from the first terminal to the second terminal only if the security information from the first terminal is new.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a classification information registering unit which registers classification information of the security information desired by the information recipient; and

a classification unit which classifies the security information from the first terminal,

wherein said first transfer unit transfers the security information to the second terminal only if the classification information and classification result of said classification unit coincide.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second receiving unit receives invalidity information showing invalidity of the security information from the second terminal, and said second transfer unit transfers the invalidity information to the first terminal.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second receiving unit receives, from the second terminal, correction information as a measure for the security information of which usefulness is shown and said second transfer unit transfers the correction information to the first terminal.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a disclosing unit which discloses the security information registered by the first registering unit.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a disclosing unit which discloses the security information registered by the first registering unit and the correction information.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A security information mediation method, comprising:

receiving security information from a first terminal at an information contributor, the security information comprising information regarding a design error or bug in a computer program;

first registering the security information in a first database;

receiving the security information registered at the first registering and transferring the security information registered at the first registering to a second terminal at an information recipient for judging usefulness of the security information;

receiving at least reply information including the usefulness of the security information corresponding to the security information from the second terminal;

registering at least the reply information in a second database; and

receiving at least the reply information and transferring the reply information to the first terminal, wherein

when the information recipient finds that the security information has usefulness, the receiving of at least the reply information includes receiving payment information on an information presentation fee to be paid to the information contributor from the second terminal, the registering of at least the reply information includes registering the payment information together with the reply information, and the receiving at least the reply information and transferring includes transferring the payment information together with the reply information to the first terminal.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The security information mediation method according to claim 8, wherein the registering the security information includes referring to the registered security information in the first database, and registering the security information from the first terminal only if the security information from the first terminal is new, and the receiving the security information registered at the first registering step and transferring includes transferring the security information from the first terminal to the second terminal only if the security information from the first terminal is new.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The security information mediation method according to claim 8, further comprising:

registering classification information of the security information desired by the information recipient; and

classifying the security information from the first terminal,

wherein the receiving the security information registered at the first registering ~~step~~ and transferring includes transferring the security information to the second terminal only if the classification information and classification result at the classifying coincide.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The security information mediation method according to claim 8, wherein the receiving at least reply information includes receiving invalidity information showing invalidity of the security information from the second terminal, and the receiving at least the reply information and transferring transfers the invalidity information to the first terminal.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The security information mediation method according to claim 8, wherein the receiving at least reply information includes receiving from the second terminal, correction information as a measure for the security information of which usefulness is shown and the receiving at least the reply information and transferring includes transferring the correction information to the first terminal.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The security information mediation method according to claim 8, further comprising disclosing the security information registered at the first registering step.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The security information mediation method according to claim 12, further comprising disclosing the security information registered at the first registering step and the correction information.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable medium for storing instructions, which when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform:

first receiving security information from a first terminal at an information contributor, the security information comprising information regarding a design error or bug in a computer program;

registering the security information in a first database;

receiving the security information registered at the first registering and transferring the security information registered at the first registering to a second terminal at an information recipient for judging usefulness of the security information;

receiving at least reply information including the usefulness of the security information corresponding to the security information from the second terminal;

registering at least the reply information in a second database; and

receiving at least the reply information registered at the second registering step and transferring the reply information registered at the second registering step to the first terminal, wherein

when the information recipient finds that the security information has usefulness, the receiving at least reply information includes receiving payment information on an information presentation fee to be paid to the information contributor from the second terminal, the registering at least the reply information includes registering the payment information together with the reply information, and the receiving at least the reply information includes transferring the payment information together with the reply information to the first terminal.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of collecting information over a network, comprising:

determining that information received from a verified user regarding a design error or bug in a computer program is valuable; and

rewarding the user for submitting the information.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of collecting information over a network, comprising:

determining that information received from a verified user regarding a security flaw in a product is valuable; and

rewarding the user for submitting the information.